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Austrian Communist Party

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Data on Austrian Communist Party Members

Undated: Presumably Summer 1948

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1. Walter Stein, Austrian economic expert for the Austrian Communist Party in Vienna, was studying in Austria at the time of the Anschluss. In 1939, he went to France where, in association with Franz Marek and Frau Anna Gruen (alias Madame Blanc), he formed a Communist organization called Front National Autrichien. The purpose of this group was to unite all Austrian Communists who had taken refuge in France and to keep in touch with international Communist agents. In 1945, at the end of the war, the Soviet General Susloparov, sent Stein, Marek, and Frau Gruen by plane from Paris to Austria where they have become prominent in CP circles. Stein, together with Dr. Theodor Prager and Dr. Ludwig Soswinski, was responsible for the so-called CP economic plan. Frau Gruen is in charge of welfare activities of the CP.
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- Comment: The Volkstimme of 3 November 1948 listed Franz Marek as a member of the Central Committee and stated that Walter Stein had been elected to the Central Control Commission of the Party.)

Comment: Frau Gruen has been reported to have served as social welfare officer of the Vienna Police Directorate in 1946.)

Possible Future Assignment of Government Posts

25X1X6 18 September 1948

2. A CP banquet was held on 18 September 1948 at the villa of Johann Koplenig, Türkenschanzplatz 2, Vienna XVIII. Those present were Franz Honner, Josef Lauscher, Karl Altmann, Gottlieb Fiala, Karl Steinhardt, Otto Horn, Ernst Fischer, Franz Marek, Viktor Matejka, Laurenz Genner, Hella Altmann-Postranecky,

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Stadtrat Freund, Rokosny (fmu), Schaller (fmu), Soviet Major Krupka of the MVD in Vienna, and Soviet Colonel Rafa Zolotov. The party engaged in an optimistic discussion concerning the CP's ability to carry out a coup d'etat, as a result of its superior organization. It was pointed out that, since the CP lacks popular support, its attempt to seize power in Austria will have to be based on the methods which have been employed in the people's democracies. It was indicated that the following assignments to government posts would be made in the event of a Communist seizure of power in Austria:

Minister President: Johann Koplenig
 Federal Chancellor: Friedl Fuernberg
 Minister of Interior: Franz Honner
 Minister of Justice: Dr. Ludwig Soswinski
 Finance Minister: Dr. Manfred Mauthner-Markhof
 Propaganda Minister: Otto Brichacek
 Minister of Trade: Dr. Karl Altmann
 Minister of Education: Dr. Viktor Matejka
 Minister of Food: Hella Altmann-Postranecky
 Minister of Agriculture and Forestry: Laurenz Genner
 Minister of Economic Planning: Theodor Maller
 Minister of Social Welfare: Gottlieb Fiala
 Minister of Health: Dr. Anton Roth
 Minister of Culture: Dr. Ludwig Berg
 Police President: Dr. Heinrich Duermayer
 Director of Staatspolizei: Dr. Max Umschweif

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Future arrests of anti-Communist members of the present government were also discussed. Comment: Most of the above "appointments" are readily predictable. It is significant, however, to find Baron Mauthner-Markhof mentioned as finance minister, since the baron has been reported to be the chief financial supporter of the Austrian People's Party. Source's roster lends weight to a number of reports indicating that Mauthner-Markhof has contributed large sums of money, estimated at several millions of schillings, to the CP in exchange for a promise of immunity and special privilege under a possible Communist regime. An independent source, in a report dated 2 November 1948, evaluated F-3, included Mauthner-Markhof's name as Austrian Finance Minister on a similar list of officials of an "Austrian People's Democracy".)

New Commissions of CP Central Committee

6 November 1948

3. The newly constituted Central Committee has created three commissions with the following assignments: The first commission will prepare a list of Austrian Government officials who are hostile to the CP, including other active opponents

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of the CP. Names will be listed according to districts, and the age, profession, and economic status of the persons involved will be indicated. The report will also state which persons might be used by the CP under certain conditions. The second commission, which comprises only Moscow-selected members, is to be assigned to surveillance over all CP officials in high positions, to "advise" them and to direct their activities. Directives, which will be transmitted periodically by the Cominform, will be carried out by this second Commission and adapted to the situation in Austria. The third commission will extend Party membership among the masses, a task which is considered of particular importance, since, in the future, the Party is expected to support itself financially without continual subsidies from Moscow. While formation of the second commission is complete, the first commission is still in the process of formation under the personal supervision of members of the CP Central Committee. The third commission will operate by means of reliable agitators, selected through subordinate CP organizations. Source emphasizes that these commissions, the so-called cadre sections (Kaderabteilungen), were organized under specific orders from the Cominform, independently of local Soviet authorities. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Comment: An almost identical report was received from another source.)

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CP Financial Matters9 November 1948

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4. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment: The following information on the financial organization of the CP is of marginal interest but serves to indicate the pattern of CP activity.) Austrian CP section leaders (Sektionsleiter) do not receive payment; there are 170 sections in Vienna alone. On the district level, district leaders (Bezirksleiter) receive monthly salaries ranging from 450 to 700 schillings, depending on the size of their families. There are 21 district leaders in Vienna and 60 in all of Austria. Each district leader is permitted to employ a secretary whose salary is paid by the Central Committee. At district headquarters, between 30 and 40 percent of the money realized through collection of membership fees is retained to pay expenses of the district headquarters, since these expenses are no longer met by the Central Committee. District organizations require about 100,000 schillings for monthly operating expenses at the present scale. Since the sum which is realized through withholding part of the membership fees does not amount to more than 80,000 schillings, a monthly deficit of 20,000 schillings must be met by selling propaganda material, requesting additional donations from members, and through other means. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Comment: The above figures for district headquarters expenses and income are probably based on the statement of an informant in some particular district, since it is unlikely that these sums would be constant everywhere in Austria.) Members of the Central Committee receive monthly salaries ranging from 2,000 to 3,000 schillings, depending on the importance of their positions. Specialists working for the Central Committee receive 1,200 schillings per month. The Central Committee has decided that in the future it will continue to support no more than the following auxiliary and front organizations:

- Childrens' Aid (Kinderland)
- Association of Former Concentration Camp Inmates (KZ-Verband)
- League of Anti-Fascist Freedom Fighters (Bund Antifaschistischer Freiheitskämpfer)
- League of Democratic Women (Bund Demokratischer Frauen)
- Aid to the Housewives (Hausfrauenhilfe)
- Free Austrian Youth (Freie Oesterreichische Jugend)
- Society for the Cultivation of Cultural and Economic Relations with the Soviet Union
- Tenant's Protective Society (Mieterschutzverein)
- Friends of Nature (Naturfreunde)

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5. The following new system is to be used in distributing the proceeds from CP membership dues:

CP Central Committee	50%
District headquarters	30%
Sections	20%

Proceeds from the sale of special stamps (Kampffondmarken), at prices ranging from 1 to 10 schillings, will be distributed as follows:

CP Central Committee	40%
District headquarters	30%
Sections	30%

An urgent appeal has been issued to all members to buy more stamps. Contributions are being solicited from the membership as follows:

Workers	1.50 schillings plus 10 groschen
Persons not working	0.45 schillings plus 5 groschen

The additional contributions in groschen are given to the Communist Party children's association Kinderland. ~~Comment:~~ Source does not indicate whether these contributions are part of the stamp drive, a regular assessment similar to dues, or the response to a special appeal.)

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